



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2016

CONTACTS: Barry Toiv

Association of American Universities
202-408-7500, barry.toiv@aau.edu

Tim McDonough
American Council on Education
202-939-9300, tmcdonough@acenet.edu

Pete Boyle
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
pete@naicu.edu

**ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING MOST U.S. COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES OPPOSE
CONNECTICUT PROPOSAL TO TAX YALE UNIVERSITY**

The following statement was issued today by the [Association of American Universities](#), the [American Council on Education](#), and the [National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities](#) in response to legislation under consideration by the Connecticut General Assembly to impose taxation on Yale University. Like other nonprofit charitable organizations, private nonprofit colleges and universities are tax-exempt nationally and in all fifty states.

As associations representing most of the nation's colleges and universities, we are deeply troubled by state legislation proposed in Connecticut to tax the endowment and academic properties of Yale University. Private colleges, from small religious colleges to major research universities, are tax-exempt for the same reason as children's charities, relief and religious organizations, and other nonprofits: their foundational commitment to public service. Universities' missions of education and research are dedicated to serving the public good. The economy and American society rely deeply on the people universities educate, the discoveries made in their labs, and the work they do to improve their communities and their states.

Taxing a large university would set a precedent for taxing not only other private colleges but also every nonprofit, from local churches and soup kitchens to the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Nonprofit charitable organizations are part of the foundation of American society. If we begin to tax them, we erode that foundation.

Yale is one of the world's great research universities. Like other such institutions, it is vital to the economy of its community and state. Connecticut should be very careful indeed about taking precipitous action that would, however unintentionally, undermine Yale's ability to carry out its education, research, and service missions. Nowhere would the impact be greater than in Connecticut.

#####